

JAMAICA.

THE Island of Jamaica, once styled "the brightest jewel in the British Crown," has yet a peerless beauty which no painter has sketched. Its loveliness, after three hundred years of European occupation, is unrivaled. It is full of untold resources, alike for the economist and the artist. But its geography and its history have employed the pens of able writers without receiving full justice. It is still largely a virgin soil, promising full compensation to adequate culture.

Jamaica was discovered by Columbus three hundred and eighty-six years ago, on his second westward voyage. Later he revisited the island, and wintered in one of its land-locked harbors on the north side, near St. Ann's Bay, that is still called "Christopher's Cove." The land near by he called Seville, in honor of the place of that name in old Spain. Here, when his men mutinied and deserted him, and when he was lying ill and helpless, the natives protected and relieved him.

Columbus describes Jamaica as being well wooded, as abounding in springs and streams, and clothed, from plain to mountain summit, in richest livery of grass and flower and shrub. Only those who have seen the luxuriant profusion of tropical verdure can appreciate the gorgeous beauty on which the wondering mariner gazed and which won for it the name Xamaica, the land of woods and streams, which name anglicized into Jamaica it has ever since borne. Columbus saw no cities nor towns, nor even buildings, when his eyes first beheld Jamaica; but he looked upon what was to be the seat of a dense population, an island which was to be dotted with prosperous towns, and with populous cities, as it is to-day.

In virtue of its discovery it was a Spanish colony. It remained such for a hundred and sixty-one years. The gentle natives who had welcomed Columbus only with kindness became the helpless victims of Spanish violence and rapacity, and soon

melted away like a hoar-frost in the sun. In fifty years one hundred thousand of them had perished. The full story of their wrongs has never been written, it never can be; and we instinctively turn away from the horrible story.

In 1655 Oliver Cromwell, Lord High Protector of England, without any formal declaration of war, sent General Venable and Admiral Penn to the West Indies, ostensibly to make reprisals in the Caribbean Sea for injuries done by Spain to English commerce; but really to capture and subjugate Santo Domingo. Instead of securing that coveted prize, they made a successful descent upon Jamaica. From that day to this, for now two centuries and a quarter, Jamaica has been an English colony. Down to 1865 it was an independent, self-governing colony. Since then, when the charter was surrendered, it has been a crown-colony, all its officers being appointed by the crown, instead of being elected by the colonists.

Jamaica lies in the Caribbean Sea, within seventeen degrees of the equator, extended about sixty-five miles north and south, by one hundred and seventy-five miles east and west, with an area of six thousand four hundred square miles. It holds a central and controlling position in the Caribbean Sea. South of Cuba, one hundred miles, and west of Santo Domingo, ninety miles, both of which islands can be seen in clear weather, from the Jamaica mountains; it is less than fifteen hundred miles southward from New York, and it is five hundred miles eastward from the Isthmus of Darien, on the line of the British and Australian steamers and of the ships sailing from the United States to South America.

The population of Jamaica is about half a million, less than eighty to the square mile. The distribution of colors, as also their relative increase, is somewhat singular; thus; whites, thirteen thousand, decreased at the rate of five per cent in the decade preceding 1871; colored or mixed races, one hundred

thousand, an increase of nearly twenty thousand, or twenty-four per cent. The blacks, of full African blood, number nearly four hundred thousand. They had increased, during the same time, over twelve per cent. Tropical countries are able to support larger populations than those of temperate latitudes. Probably this island would not be too crowded with a population of two hundred to the square mile. The increase of thirty per cent of the population in ten years proves Jamaica a healthy island. In the same decade, the population of the United States, with its large yearly immigration increased only sixty-three per cent. *The census tables of Jamaica, disprove the statement sometimes made, that mulattoes are not a fruitful race.*

The educational statistics of the island, are, on the whole, creditable, though the standard of learning is not an elevated one, as it might be expected would be the case among a race so lately redeemed from slavery. Nearly thirty per cent of the population are either able to read and write, or else are found attending school, and there is fair reason to expect that but few of the next generation will be found entirely illiterate.

Following the English method, all the Churches sustain day-schools, some of which, however, are under government inspection; and besides these Church schools and the inspected elementary schools, run entirely by the colony, the government sustains reformatory and normal schools. Of the latter there are six, at which two hundred persons are being trained for teachers. There are also six model schools, with an attendance of three hundred and twenty-five. The increase of trained teachers in five years was seventy-five per cent; of inspected schools, forty-three per cent in four years; and of average attendance, sixty-two per cent. The sum of government aid dispensed proves the growth of the schools, for it was according to the amount and character of the work done. In 1868-1871 the increase of grants was one hundred and eighty per cent. In Kingston there are three endowed schools of higher grade—the Mico, Woolmer's and the Hebrew National Insti-

tute, and two unendowed; namely, the Calabar and the Collegiate. The Calabar is under the patronage and care of the Baptists; the Collegiate, of the Scotch Kirk. These institutions are either independent or only partially under Church control. Including those in Kingston, there are eleven endowed schools in Jamaica, with an aggregate of nearly a million of dollars of capital, the annual income from which is about fifty thousand dollars. Of Church schools the Church of England has one hundred and thirty-nine; the Baptists, one hundred and fourteen; the Wesleyans, sixty-nine; the Presbyterians, forty-two; London Missionary Society, fifteen; United Methodist Free Church, fourteen; American Missionary Association, five; Roman Catholic, eleven; Hebrews, one; making, of secular and Church schools, six hundred and eleven.

Of what are known as the Mico schools of the British West India Islands, the following is the brief story: Lady Mico, who died in 1710, left a sum of money, with which to *redeem white Christian slaves in Barbary*. In 1827, this amounted to £110,000. No white slaves remaining in Barbary, to be redeemed, in 1834, when the slaves were emancipated in the British West Indies, Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, conceived that the interest of this money might be legitimately applied to the Christian instruction of the West India freedmen. This was acceded to, and to the interest of this sum the government added a temporary annual grant of twenty thousand pounds for the same benevolent object. Rev. Archdeacon Trew, who had won Mr. Buxton's highest esteem by his sacrifices and labors on behalf of the negroes, during a long residence in Jamaica, was made the first superintendent of this Christian mission.

Sir T. F. Buxton desired that the system should be conducted on liberal and comprehensive principles; and he sought Mr. Trew's views. "They are simply these," said Mr. Trew, "the Word of God is the only basis on which a Christian education can rest." "Granted," said Mr. Buxton, "and on no other principle would I have any thing to do with this charity." Upon

these principles, Mr. Buxton commenced this trust, and by them he and his co-trustees ever afterwards conducted it. In 1835 Mr. Trew took to the West Indies twenty teachers who had been mostly trained at the Normal Seminary in Glasgow by that prince among elementary educators, Daniel Stow. Normal schools were established in Jamaica and Antigua. In those islands, in which for education comparatively little had been done prior to emancipation, as in Trinidad, St. Lucia, Mauritius, and Seychelles, elementary schools were established, as well as schools for training native teachers. In the country parts of Jamaica, as the largest British West India Island, several such schools were established, besides the training school and the other schools in Kingston. In a few years upwards of five hundred native teachers from every Christian denomination had been trained in the institutions in Kingston and in Antigua.

The withdrawal of the government grant, after a few years, caused the abandonment of all the country schools in Jamaica and of those in Trinidad, Bahamas, Seychelles, and Mauritius, thus, unfortunately, paralyzing a system that otherwise would have made its stamp upon the progress of the British West Indies. Nine schools are still kept up in St. Lucia, as well as the training colleges. Since 1854 the institution in Jamaica has received a fresh impulse, and it is now the leading training college for the West Indies. Four hundred teachers have been trained in it, of whom three hundred and twenty have been put in charge of schools. Altogether five thousand five hundred and fifty children have passed through the school. The ablest native ministers and teachers among the Wesleyans, Independents, and Church of England, have been prepared at this institution. The training colleges are governed by a Board of Trustees in London, and they are managed by a resident superintendent who is the principal of the school and the agent of the Trustees. He is aided by a Normal master and two assistants. The educational buildings in Kingston are the largest in Jamaica. These colleges are non-denominational but Protestant.

There is a prevalent idea that the Jamaicans are degraded and immoral. This notion results in part from unfair and prejudicial statements made by superficial observers and sensational writers of the Trollope style. One writer avers that four-fifths of the people are illegitimate, and that they are the most degraded of any he had ever seen. The writer could never have seen the New Granadians, the Mexican Greasers, the Coast Indians of the Pacific, nor the Digger Indians of Nevada. He could not have given the subject a fair investigation—perhaps for want of time. I know such representations are grossly unjust. A few facts will prove them so. It is admitted that licentiousness has somewhat, indeed, lamentably prevailed, as it usually does in connection with slavery. Some of the sensualism since prevalent has been the natural result of slavery times and manners. But it is much less prevalent now than formerly. The rural population and to a large extent, the people of the cities, have their own homesteads and families, and keep up their domestic relations and home comforts—facts utterly impossible under a general depravation of morals.

The Churches have a strong hold upon the people. Church discipline is as strict as in any country. One-third of the population are members of the Church, or of some Christian congregation. One-half the population are under direct Christian influence. There are three hundred and seventy-six churches, or one to every thirteen hundred and seventy of the population. There are two hundred and thirty ministers, or one for every twenty-seven hundred of the population. There are seventy-five thousand Church members and two hundred thousand Church sittings, and a regular attendance of one hundred and fifty thousand upon the Church services. What other Christian country can make a better showing?

The Church of England was disestablished in 1870, except as to present rectors and curates, who are to receive salaries from the public treasury only during their incumbency. The Church of England has fifty thousand sittings, and an average attendance of twenty-nine thousand; commu-

nicants, fourteen thousand. The Baptists have one hundred and eight chapels, with a sitting capacity of fifty thousand. The Wesleyans have thirty-five ministers, sixty-five chapels, sitting capacity forty thousand. Church members seventeen thousand. Coke chapel, in Kingston, is a fine brick structure, capable of seating two thousand persons. It has a large and powerful organ; a school-house is on the premises. Coke Society was organized by Rev. Thomas Coke, LL. D., who was, also, one of the first bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To his name belongs the honor of having planted and organized Methodism in Jamaica. His first visit was in 1789. He visited the island three times, suffering much from mobs and imprisonments and fines. Thirteen times he crossed the Atlantic on his mission of love. Wesley chapel will seat three thousand persons. It is usually crowded. It has by far the largest organ in the island. The Church property of the Wesleyans is worth one hundred thousand pounds, on which there is no debt. These seventeen thousand Church members raise nine thousand pounds for Church and religious purposes, an average of two dollars and seventy cents a year each; and yet such a people are represented as debased and immoral!

A gentleman of my acquaintance amassed a fortune of ten thousand pounds in fifteen years by his own toil and thrift. He built a church and gave it to the conference, and then engaged to support a minister to preach in it. Another had acquired twenty thousand pounds in a like term, and he occupied a commanding commercial position. In one year one hundred and fifteen thousand pounds were deposited in the savings-banks, and there are usually half a million pounds sterling on deposit in the savings-banks. When the low rate of wages is considered, from twenty-five to thirty cents a day for the out-door work of an able-bodied man, these savings are something remarkable. These facts are not compatible with a very low state of morals.

There are one hundred and ten thousand of the population—more than one-third of the adults—who are married, or who have

been married. There is general security to travelers and sojourners in the island. The writer has traveled in all parts of the island by day and by night, alone and with his family, and he was never molested. Every two or three weeks the several sugar estates have to send a messenger into the towns to get money to pay off the hands. He travels alone, unarmed, on foot, and he carries from three to five hundred pounds. It is well known who he is and what his business, yet he is never molested. Only one case has ever occurred that a messenger was robbed, and the punishment followed so swift, and the moral tone of the island is such that the act was never repeated. But still the people of Jamaica are not all angels nor saints. They are not all as industrious and thrifty as could be wished; and yet what they have done in lines that are common to civilized and Christian communities disproves the allegation that they are notoriously degraded and immoral. In several respects they have given proof of possessing high qualities. Their schools and churches and their general orderliness are marked and commendable. While there are among the blacks some who are idle and vagabondish, as a rule the people are industrious and frugal. Considering their origin and treatment their thrift is rather remarkable than otherwise. All the West India islands were peopled by pagan Africans. Less than fifty years ago these people were slaves. The depraving tendencies of slavery need not be stated, and that of Jamaica was of the most degrading and unmitigated sort. The questions are pertinent: Are the Jamaican freedmen capable of civilization? Can they be educated, Christianized? Are they capable of developing the material resources of the country? All the facts in the case make an unequivocal affirmative answer to these inquiries.

Kingston, the capital and the chief commercial town, has forty thousand inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated on the harbor of the same name. An elegant iron market-house, beautiful and extensive and durable, with a solid sea-wall in front, has been erected at a cost of seventy-five thousand pounds. There is nothing equaling it in the West

Indies. The chief towns on the south side of the island are Morant, Spanish Town, Savannah la Mar, Port Royal, and Kingston. On the north side are Port Antonio, Manchioneel, Ocho Rios, St Anns, Duncans, Falmouth, Montego Bay, and Lucia.

There is a charming picturesqueness about the scenery of Jamaica, especially in those places where the land and water views blend. This is true of Falmouth and Montego Bay. The former stands out in the sea; the latter is shut in from the sea by two almost encompassing crescents.

New Castle is a collection of barracks for soldiers. When the soldiers were formerly stationed at Port Augusta, opposite Port Royal, where the land is flat and marshy, they often suffered severely from the yellow fever, and therefore New Castle was selected as likely to furnish them healthier quarters. It is sixteen miles from Kingston and twenty miles from the sea. Its altitude is four thousand feet. As you enter the harbor it can be distinctly seen—its rows of white barracks and its clearly defined streets make it look like a hanging city on the mountain-side. It commands a view up and down the island on the south side for seventy-five miles. The air is here most delightfully cool and pleasant.*

Jamaica has twelve fine harbors. That of Kingston is very remarkable. Ten miles east of Kingston a coral reef makes out from the land, and in a long, narrow tongue it runs parallel with the south water line of the island, making an inland sea of four miles wide by fourteen miles long, and forming one of the finest harbors in the world.

There are no venomous serpents, nor bears, foxes, nor wolves in Jamaica. Red-tailed deer, conies, and wild hogs abound in the high mountains. Grouse, pigeons, guinea-fowls, snipes, and ducks are found. Parquets and other birds of charming plumage

and song abound. There is a great variety of humming-birds. The annoying reptiles and insects are centipedes, scorpions, tarantulas, spiders, ticks, fleas, and chiggers. Their bites and stings, though intensely annoying, are not fatal nor specially serious. They rarely attack persons unless surprised or cornered. Bees, both wild and tame, abound. Wild bees make their honey in the rocks. In an open cave protected from rain and winds, about fifty feet above the ground, I saw five large swarms.

Only two-fifths of the island are cultivated. The value of estates, as well as the demand for them, has of late increased. A small estate in St. John's of about two hundred acres was withdrawn in 1871 on an offer of six thousand pounds. In 1872 it was valued at ten thousand pounds. The government offers one hundred thousand acres of uncultivated lands at one pound per acre. The soil is a strong loam of high fertility. There are estates which have been in continuous cane culture for one hundred years, which will still yield as much cane to the acre and of as high saccharine quality as any land in the world. The land can be cultivated to the tops of the mountains, eight thousand feet high, as frost never touches the highest points. Sometimes two crops of certain things in the year can be raised. The principal rock is white limestone of recent formation. Trap rock is there, but not in abundance. All the rocks are amorphous. The remains of ancient volcanoes are seen in the western part of the island. Gold, iron, and copper are there, but not concentrated nor abundant.

The climate of Jamaica, though occasionally sultry, is yet very pleasant. It combines the temperatures of the torrid and of the temperate zones. Its insular position and the trade-winds keep it cooler than the weather in like continental latitudes. These

*I have known the climates of various districts on this continent. I have breathed the dry air of Mexico and Lower California. I have crossed the Alleghanies, the Rocky, and Humboldt ranges, as also the Sierras, and I have traversed the great American basin. I have felt the bracing atmosphere of British Columbia, Alaska, and Oregon, yet I have never found a climate so exquisitely refreshing and delicious as that of the mountains

of Jamaica. That of Cuba and San Domingo is probably similar, as they are both mountainous, like Jamaica, and are swept by the same trade winds. To rise in the early morning and to go forth and pluck, in the Jamaica mountains, a ripe orange which has been cooled by the dews and breezes is to know the highest pleasure of indulging the appetite for fruit. Nothing can be more exquisite.

blow all the year, except a few days in September. The temperature is also affected by the face of the land. One may vary his climate by his altitude. A lofty mountain range extends the whole length of the island, with an extreme height of nearly eight thousand feet, and with an average of, say, four thousand feet. In the Liguanea plains, three miles from Kingston, say, two hundred feet above the sea, the mercury in the warmest weather rises to ninety degrees; during the cooler months to eighty degrees. It has sometimes, but rarely, risen to ninety-three degrees, and sometimes it has gone as low as sixty-three degrees. The barometer, at the same place, does not fluctuate more than two-tenths of an inch, from twenty-nine and eight-tenths to thirty inches, except on some rare occasions. Hurricanes seldom occur, not oftener than once in thirty or forty years, and when they do, they are less destructive than in the windward islands. The usual track of the Caribbean cyclone is about forty miles south of Jamaica. The rainy seasons are in May and October, each lasting about three weeks.

Severe earthquakes have sometimes been felt. Some are noiseless, others make noise enough for half a dozen heavy thunderstorms combined. That of 1692 was the most terrific ever known there. Peals like thunder were heard in the St. Andrew's hills, ten miles away. Then three shocks were felt, each more violent than the preceding; the last one upheaved the sea, and sunk two-thirds of Port Royal, with two thousand persons. Houses were thrown down in different parts of the island. A thousand acres of land, on the north side of the island, were submerged beneath the sea. Between Spanish Town and the Bog-walk, the Rio Cobra was dammed up, until, at length, the river became a lake; and then breaking through its new-made barriers, it swept all before it to the sea. In St. David's a portion of a mountain was torn away. Five hundred feet down through the mountain from the summit, the solid rocks were riven and half the mountain, perhaps a million tons in weight, was hurled upon the plain below. "Judgment Hill" and "Mount

Sinai" are the names this doomed mountain has since borne. River courses were changed. Old springs disappeared and new fountains were opened.*

In 1744 a hurricane and an earthquake combined their terrors, destroying much shipping and many lives. One hundred and four ships were lost. Such calamities, however, have been quite rare. Three earthquakes, two of them very severe, occurred during my three years' sojourn in the island. One made much noise, the others were quite noiseless.

Jamaica yields sugar, rum, coffee, pimento, ginger, sago, arrowroot, rice, indigo, cinchona, senna, pine-apples, plantains, bananas, bread-fruit, oranges, lemons, shaddock, achey, grapes, mangoes, mangosteens, guava, figs, cocoa-nuts, dates, sweet sop, sour sop, cherry-moyer, star-apple, pomegranates, yams, sweet-potatoes, wax, honey, logwood, fustic, ebony, braziletto wood, lignum-vitæ, satin-wood, gray sanders, candle-wood, bitter-wood, cedar, mahogany. The season of the mango is from June to November, and so largely is this a food staple that during its season the flour importation falls off one-half. It is an exotic, brought to Jamaica, a hundred years ago, by Lord Rodney, an English admiral, who captured a French vessel off the Isle of Bourbon, containing six hundred varieties of tropical plants and fruits. They were brought to Jamaica and cultivated. Among these were thirty kinds of mangoes. The names by which they were distinguished were the labels numbered from one to thirty. To this day they are known by their numbers, number eleven being the best. The mango is about the size and color of the pippin, differing in appearance from the

*I have read the epitaph, in the Port Royal Cemetery of one of the survivors of this earthquake; namely, "Lewis Goldy, who died December 22, 1739, eighty years of age." This was forty-seven years after the great earthquake. He was a native of Montpellier, France; but being a Protestant he had sought a home in Jamaica. The inscription states that he was swallowed up in a fissure caused by the earthquake, then, by another shock, he was cast into the sea, whence he escaped by swimming. After this he flourished as a merchant in Port Royal, and he represented four parishes in successive legislative assemblies.

apple by having no calyx, and by being rather plum than apple shape. The flavor of the mango is a combination of the flavors of the most delicious peach, plum, and nectarine. The mangosteen is even more delicious than the mango. Persons who have never eaten tropical fruits in the tropics can form no idea of their excellent quality. The oranges and pine-apples of commerce are no more like those eaten ripe, where grown, than a crude wild apple resembles the best cultivated varieties. You would as soon think of painting the rose to make it lovelier, or of adding sugar to honey to make it sweeter, as to sweeten an orange or prepare pine-apples for use by adding sugar to them. Fruit is much used in the tropics as a dessert. A fashionable dish is the mixture of oranges and sour sop, or sweet sop, which is called matrimony. Another is shaddock, which is eaten with the fingers, and as the fruit is juiceless, or nearly so, no inconvenience results. *Pomegranates* are used in the same way. The achey is a most singular fruit. It grows on a tree, about the size and appearance of an apple-tree. The fruit itself, on the tree, reminds one of apples; but a nearer inspection shows a marked difference. The seeds grow on the outside of the fruit in the end opposite the stem, answering to the calyx of the apple. Close around the seeds is a black section, the seed also being black. This black part is a deadly poison, and it must be carefully removed before the fruit is cooked. The flesh of the achey is slightly yellow. When cooked by boiling, the usual mode, the achey is the color and the flavor of boiled eggs, and the dish is always eaten as a dressing with fresh or salt fish.

The cabbage-palm is a very peculiar growth. It is a species of palm, a section of which, just below the fronds, is green in color on the surface, succulent, tender, and of the taste and nature of cabbage. It is used as cabbage, both eaten boiled and prepared as a pickle. The section is larger or smaller according to the size of the tree and the rapidity of its growth. In rare cases it is twelve inches in diameter and three feet in length.

The vegetation of Jamaica is of great va-

riety and profusion. Ferns and tree-ferns abound, the latter of all sizes from six feet in height to seventy-five feet. Mosses and vines and lichens are most abundant. In the cups of the lichens, dew and rain are retained during droughts, and the birds use them freely at such times. In those parts of the island not well watered and subject to drought, the cactus abounds. In the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrews, St. Catharine, and Vere, they are used for making fences.

The Baobab, or silk cotton tree, grows to an enormous size. It is common to all tropical countries, being found in the East Indies and Brazil. Dr. Livingstone speaks of it in Africa. It is the largest known tree in the world. Branches and roots grow, laterally, to an immense distance, and the trunk is buttressed at roots and branches to support the great strain made on them. There is one at Up Park Camp, two miles from Kingston, which makes a noonday shadow two hundred and fifty feet in diameter. Under the shade of this mighty giant of the forest the regimental band (colored), twice a week, discourse sweet music, which the Kingston *élite* ride out to enjoy. Only one-third part of this tree is in bearing at a time; one-third part is in full bloom with the cotton, one-third part is in leaf, only; and the other third is leafless and apparently dead; but it is only resting and recruiting for its turn, which will come round every third year. The silk cotton tree is the favorite of the wild fig, *Ficus Indica*. This plant is a rapid and vigorous grower, and when it takes hold of the Baobab, it encircles every inch of its surface and literally hugs it to death; and then, sending shoots down from the branches to the ground, these root and grow stiff and so support the scaffolded vine. Sometimes this process goes on until the tree seems to have a hundred trunks. This is called the Banyan tree in India. Thus the shape and appearance of the Baobab tree is retained, long after the tree itself is dead and decayed, and the vigorous growth and remarkable verdure of the wild fig, as well as the many supporting trunks, give the apparent tree a singular beauty which the real one never had.

The Jamaica cedar is a great curiosity. In fiber, color, and smell the wood exactly corresponds with the cedar of temperate and arctic latitudes. But the tree, instead of being conical in form and close limbed like other cedars, is open and branching like the oak or the linden, with oak-shaped leaves as large as those of the linden.

The agave, or century plant, is common and abundant. One sees as many of them in the forests of Jamaica as of dogwood or pawpaw in ours. There are yellow and white and red blooming varieties. They do not, in the West Indies require a hundred years to bloom; but mature at irregular periods, often of twenty or more years. The night-blooming cereus also abounds.

Jamaica has the finest roads in the world. The administrations, present and former, unlike our American method, have acted upon the old Roman maxim—that the first, second, and third elements of a high civilization, are the creation and maintenance of good roads. A broad, graded, Macadamized road, not excelled for smoothness and hardness by those of Central and Prospect Parks, extends quite around the Island. Another crosses it from Spanish Town to St. Ann's. It scales the mountains at an elevation of three thousand feet, with a grade so easy that a pair of horses with a light buggy will trot up the ascent. Besides these carriage roads there are good bridle paths in the steeper mountain passes, so making accessible all parts. No tolls are taken on bridges or on roads. The whole road system is under the care of a salaried and able engineer, thus securing promptness and effectiveness of service. The cost, amounting annually to forty-five thousand pounds, is met by general and special taxes.

Leading directly across the island from Old Harbor to Christopher's Cove is an old Spanish road. It must have been built nearly three hundred years, yet it is still a pretty good road and in tolerable repair. When the ruggedness of the country, the earthquakes, and the violence of the rains in tropical countries are considered, the excellence of this old Spanish road is a marvel.

The island is undeniably healthful. The

medical faculties in England, Germany, and America have commended this climate for invalids, especially those suffering from phthisis. Many have gone there with shattered health and have returned with renewed vigor. There are as many and as healthy old persons according to the population as in any part of the United States; and this is true, not only of natives, white and colored, but also of persons going there from other countries and remaining there many years. The laboring classes are robust and vigorous. Kingston, with a crowded population, with narrow streets and no sewers, and with garbage reeking under a tropical sun, except as devoured by scavenger birds, is as free from diseases as any city of its size in the world. In addition to these facts, an increase of thirty per cent of the population, in ten years, without any influx by immigration, is conclusive. Approached from the south, the island lies mirrored in the deep sea, clear and distinct, an image of unsurpassed loveliness. From the north the land rises into gracefully rounded high hills, separated from each other, by spacious intervals, with running streams and foaming, dashing cascades. The surface on the south side is much more irregular and craggy. Several ridges, less high than the principal range, appear in the foreground, and all, to their highest peaks, are clad in fadeless green. All this, seen from the deck of the approaching steamer; the corrugated surface; the serrated, comb-like crest, profiling itself against the sky; here, the bold outline; there the gentle slope; the sharp acclivity, the rugged gorge; forest and field and glen and glade, make up a wonderful perspective, never surpassed, and once seen never forgotten. Columbus describes its first appearance, as seen from the south, as resembling a sheet of paper, compressed and crumpled, and then left with all its creases and seams upon it. The nearer view is not less enchanting. A ride through the famous Bog-walk—a chasm, riven from summit to base of mountain, by some sudden convulsion of nature—along the meanderings of the Rio Cobra, into the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-vale, among inclosed meadows

or cane-fields, and orange orchards, laden with their golden fruit; and pimento groves, redolent of the most exquisite aroma; and coffee-walks decked in brightest scarlet and green, presents a picture of beauty never even faintly conceived.

The famous "Bog-walk" is very peculiar. The Rio Cobra at this point breaks through the mountains, and flows, in a deep gorge or cañon, the walls rising hundreds of feet on either side. The "Bog-walk" proper is three miles long. The cañon extends five miles. The road crosses the river many times. It perhaps should be added that the land on the north side, has, in fifty years, risen above or receded from the sea, twelve or fourteen inches, and on the south side it has gone into the sea as far, showing a gradual but perceptible leaning of the island from a perpendicular to a southwardly inclination. To those who have seen engravings of the deep-sea soundings in the Caribbean, this gradual dip may portend ultimate submergence.

The Jamaicans are of simple, gentle manners. They are proverbially kind, courteous, and hospitable. You rarely meet a person without receiving a respectful salutation, while acts of rudeness and unkindness are quite exceptional. The natives are passionately fond of music and dancing. They are generally, and especially those living in rural districts, industrious, honest, frugal, thrifty. Their neat cottages surrounded by flowers and shrubbery and palms and bananas and clinging parasites, and the invariable plantain patch near, give one an idea of much home comfort and order. Travelers have sometimes, but erroneously, judged of the whole people by the specimens they have seen lying around loose and lazy in the sea-ports. These are, indeed, often squalid, dirty, vagabondish.

Many of the blacks and colored people hold office. There are colored clerks, mag-

istrates, aldermen, attorneys, divines. Some of them have gained great eminence in their special lines. Richard Hill, who died a few years ago, distinguished himself as a naturalist and a historian. An attorney in Kingston, Mr. D. P. Nathan, of Scotch descent, would compare favorably with the most brilliant and talented members of the legal profession in our country. Rev. Samuel Smyth, a black man, a Wesleyan minister, is a native of St. Kitts. He would gracefully and effectively fill any pulpit in Christendom. Rev. Robert Fraser, a colored Wesleyan minister, who died five or six years ago, was a learned, eloquent, saintly preacher. Thirty years ago, he made speeches in Exeter Hall, London, which produced a most profound impression.

Almost the entire constabulary force of the island, amounting to nine hundred and forty persons, are black and colored. So, also, are the main body of the troops. There are colored pilots, mechanics, and merchants. They are as successful in their several callings as the whites. Very many of the black and colored people are thoroughly educated, and highly accomplished in their manners as well as elegant and graceful in their persons. Commercially, socially, intellectually, and morally, a bright future awaits this people. Living, as they do, in the pathway of the world's commerce and travel, with a luxuriant soil, a delicious, and salubrious climate, with growing culture and intelligence and with increasing wealth, they will yet sit, as did Tyre of old, mistress of the seas, the envy and the admiration of the nations.

With the people of their sister islands, who are now, and who will be hereafter, Africans and mixed African and white breeds, it will be their high destiny and honor to vindicate their capabilities and rights, and to roll back the unjust reproach and debasement which centuries of toil and bondage had cast upon them.